

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU2004/000994

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int. Cl. <sup>7</sup>: E04H 12/00, E01F 9/013

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

DWPI : IPC E04H 12/00, 12/22, 17/20, 17/22 E01F 9/00, 9/011, 9/013 and SOCKET, HOLDER, SLOT CHANNEL, SPIKE, STAKE and the like

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 004 820 B (MORALY) 9 November 1983 Figures	1 - 5
X	US 2 554 887 A (TRICARICO) 29 May 1951 Figures	1- 17
X	US 4 095 788 A (BENENSON) 20 June 1978 Whole document	1 - 11, 16, 17
X	DE 19523173 A (ERNST BREMICKER GmbH) 2 January 1997 Whole document	1 - 9

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C

☒ See patent family annex

\* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"&" document member of the same patent family

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

Date of the actual completion of the international search  
21 September 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report  
30 SEP 2004

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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	GB 2 231 363 A (BELDRAY LIMITED) 14 November 1990 Whole document	1 - 10, 16, 17
X	AU 81532/91 A (HART et al) 26 March 1992 Whole document	1 - 5, 8, 9
X	AU 81768/91 A (GUTMANN) 26 March 1992 Whole document	1 - 10, 12 - 14, 16
X	AU 64518/90 B(609373) (BARRATT) 26 April 1991 Whole document	1 - 9, 11 - 14, 16, 17

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## Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of Boxes I to VIII is not sufficient)

### Continuation of Box No: III

The international application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention because it does not relate to one invention or to a group of inventions so linked as to form a single general inventive concept. In coming to this conclusion the International Searching Authority has found that there are different inventions as follows:

1. Claim 1. It is considered that a method of installation of a post in the ground which includes the steps of :  
(i) forming a hole in the ground; (ii) locating a ground anchor in the hole having one or more internal sockets wherein the or each internal socket is substantially flush with ground level; and (iii) inserting the guide post in the internal socket whereby said post is retained therein with a major part of the post extending above ground level whereby flexing of the post upon impact may occur about a hinge point corresponding with ground level comprises a first "special technical feature".
2. Claim 8. It is considered that a ground anchor for supporting a guide post in the ground having a body and one or more ground penetration members and at least one internal socket for receiving the guide post in use wherein there is provided retaining means for retaining the guide post within said at least one internal socket in us wherein said retaining means is located adjacent said at least one internal socket for effecting release of the guide post from said at least one internal socket when required comprises a second special technical feature.

Since the abovementioned groups of claims do not share any of the technical features identified, a "technical relationship" between the inventions, as defined in PCT rule 13.2 does not exist. Accordingly the international application does not relate to one invention or to a single inventive concept, a priori.

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This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report		Patent Family Member	
EP	4820	NONE	
US	2554887	NONE	
AU	64518/90	NONE	
AU	81768/91	NONE	
AU	81532/91	NONE	
GB	2231363	NONE	
DE	19523173	NONE	
US	4095788	AU 25417/77	JP 53128429
Due to data integration issues this family listing may not include 10 digit Australian applications filed since May 2001.			
END OF ANNEX			